fulL The targets for production have been fixed at lower levels in recent years with a view to reduce pithead stocks of coal. It was indicated that in case the demand exceeded production, the excess demand could be met by depleting pithead stocks.

**Supply of sob-standard cable to New Kenda colliery**

3633. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the electric cables at New Kenda (W.B.) were supplied by a Dhanbad based firm which has been indicted in the past of producing substandard cable ;

(b) whether the main fault with this firm's cable was its poor insulation reducing its ability to withstand heat; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) (a) to (c) According to information furnished by Coal India Ltd., a Dhanbad based firm had supplied two consignments of cable, one on 30-9-89 and another on 18-5-90 to New Kenda Colliery. The manufacturers test certificate submitted alongwith the consignment delivered by the said Dhanbad based firm was found to be in order.

CIL have informed that as on the dates of these supplies there had been no report on record in respect of cable supplied by Dhanbad based firm of low insulation for withdstanding heat till 18-5-90. Subsequently in] September, 92, a vigilance reference was made at Eastern Coalfields Ltd., in respect of a defective quality of cables supplied as per purshase order in May, 91. In view of the aforesaid references, no further orders in the years 1992 and 1993 have been given to the Dhanbad based firm.

**Group Insurance of coal Miners**

3634. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATARAMAN:
SHRI MISA R.GANESAN
SHRI J.S. RANU :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 177 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 7th March, 1994 and state :

(a) whether the labourers employed in public and private sector collieries have got group insurance;

(b) if not, why not ; and

(c) what is the total number of employees engaged in collieries in the country as on date ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) Coal Mine workers are covered under the Coal Mines Deposit-linked Insurance Scheme, 1976. However, the employees in Coal India Limited and Singarent Collieries Company Limited have been exempted from the operation of this Scheme and are covered by a Life Cover Scheme. The employees are not required to pay any premium towards this Scheme and the expenditure is met by the employers.

(c) As on 1-1-1994, the total man-power on the roll of Coal India Limited is 6,58,424 and on the roll of Singareni Collieries Company Limited is 1,15,256.